	1.2.97 to 30.4.97	1.2.98 to 30.4.98
Murder	155	156
Kidnapping	276	233
Looting(robbery)	188	138

(d) The steps taken by Delhi Police to prevent occurrence of crimes in the National Capital Territory of Delhi include intensification of foot patrolling as well as motor cycle patrolling; a closer surveillance of known bad characters; and verification of the antecedents of the servants, etc.

Attacks against artists

47. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing attacks against artists in the country by fundamentalist forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action Government have taken against the recent attacks on artists and exhibitions particularly in Bombay and Delhi; and

(d) whether Government have compensated those who had suffered losses as a result of such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Some incidents of attacks on artists and exhibitions have come to notice on 1.5.1998. Some Bajrang Dal activitsts ransacked the residence of painter M.F. Hussain at Cuffe Parade, Mumbai to protest against the display of repreoduction of a graphic of Hussain entitled 'Sita rescued' which depicted Goddess Sita, according to the protesters in objectionable situation in an exhibition at Asiad Village, New Delhi. In Delhi also, some VHP activists staged a demonstration on 23.2.1998 in front of Academy of Fince Arts and Literature to protest against the exhibition. Some agitations and protests marches have also been reported from Gujarat.

(c) and (d) In the case of rensacking of residence of M.F. Hussain, the Bombay Police registered a case and arrested 26 Bajrang Dal activists. "Public Order" and "Police" are State Subjects as per Entries I and II of List II—State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Therefore, the basis responsibility for the maintenance of law and order primarily rests with the State Government, including grant of compensation, as per rules, to those affected by Communal disturbances.

Talks with NSCN

48. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Union Government had initiated talks with the ISSAC Muviah faction of the NSCN;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to continue the process; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Violation of human rights by police

49. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent report of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) deals with the violation of human rights by police;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to place the said report on the Table of the House; and

(c) what action is being contemplated on the findings of the report?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The National Human Rights Commission has submitted its Annual Report for the year 1996-97 which is under examination for being laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament alongwith an Action Taken Memorandum.

Handling of heinous offences by Delhi Police

50. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the criticism made by a Delhi court on the Delhi Police for their casual approach in handling heinous offences which had enabled the real culprits to go scot-free; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There have been some instances where the Courts commented adversely upon the manner in which investigations were conducted by the police officials. In all such cases, Delhi police take appropriate action against the erring police officials, if any.

Change of Police Commissioner

51. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' New Delhi dated the 12th April, 1998 under the capion "Police Commissioner to be changed" CM: Cops raps Sahib for irresponsible remarks;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Government has seen the news-item in question. The transfers are made in the exigencies of service and not on personal considerations.

Cheating of foreign tourists by touts

52. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign tourists visiting India are being cheated and robbed of cash and valuables and foreign female tourists are often being abducted and molested and raped by anti-social elements operating at the airports and railway stations as touts;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard for the last three years; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation prescribing deterrent punishment for such touts and anti-socials who bring bad name to the country and affect the tourism industry of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) 'Police and Public Order' being state subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of the crime is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government does not maintain separate statistics in regard to individual incidents of crime committed against foreign tourists. It is felt that more rigorous enforcement of the existing laws can deal with the problems of touts and anti-social elements effectively.